

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 865.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 865, Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 9, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, I have just filed cloture on the Women's Health Protection Act. This week, the Senate will be confronted with a simple but urgent question: Do women in this country have a basic right to make their own choices when it comes to seeking an abortion, yes or no? It will be one of the most important questions this Chamber confronts in decades because, for the first time in 50 years, women in America face the real possibility of living in a world where the protections of *Roe v. Wade* are a thing of the past. It will set up a situation where our children, female children, have less rights than their grandparents—something that is so un-American, taking away rights, stepping backward from rights in such a dramatic way.

So, tonight, I will set up a vote for Wednesday on legislation that will codify the fundamental right to an abortion into Federal law. Every American is going to see where every Senator stands on protecting one of the most important rights a woman has regarding her own body.

I want to be clear. This week's vote is not an abstract exercise; this is as real and as high stakes as it gets. And Senate Republicans will no longer be able to hide from the horror they have unleashed upon women in America. After spending years packing our courts with rightwing judges and Justices, after changing the rules of the Senate to push three rigidly conservative Justices, after stealing the nomination of Merrick Garland, the time has come for Republicans, this new MAGA Republican Party, to answer for their actions.

If Senate Republicans allow the Supreme Court's decision to stand, it will be open season—open season—on women's rights in America.

A few days ago, Leader McConnell himself acknowledged that a Federal ban on abortions is now possible should the Supreme Court overturn *Roe* and Republicans take control of the Senate.

Let me say that again because it is so dreadful. In light of the Supreme Court's decision—upcoming decision—Leader McConnell acknowledged that a national ban on abortion is now possible without *Roe* if Republicans reclaim the majority.

Hear that, America? A total ban—a total national ban on abortion, stated

by not any Republican but by the Republican leader. Every single American needs to hear what Leader McConnell said.

For years—for decades—Republicans have tried to disguise their hostility to abortion by claiming that all they really want is to let the States decide for themselves how they will treat the issue. It is an old claim from the right: This is about States' rights. This argument has always been hypocritical, and Leader McConnell's comments make it perfectly clear why.

The game here is not about States' rights; the goal has always been a national ban on abortions altogether. States' rights is a smokescreen, nothing more than a distraction, a ruse to hide from the true claims of the hard right, of the MAGA Republicans: a national ban on abortion.

A Federal restriction on abortion would be among the most extreme ideas ever pushed by Senate Republicans, but in light of *Roe's* repeal, it seems that is the road the MAGA Republicans want to take our country down. And as scary as that is, I feel it is just the start. Ideas that have long been relegated to the fringes will return to the forefront with a vengeance—forced pregnancies, bans that make zero exceptions for rape and incest, even imprisonment for abortion providers and women who seek them—imprisonment for women who seek them, which is already happening with some State laws.

Republicans are trying in vain to obscure this reality. Last week, the chair of the Senate Republican campaign arm went as far as releasing an absurd collection of talking points trying to convince Americans that, no, Republicans don't want to throw doctors and women in jail for carrying out abortions.

The Republicans should know their position is truly extreme when that has to be one of their talking points. Oh, no, we don't want to throw women in jail. But regardless of what Republicans or the head of the Senate Republican campaign committee might try and claim, the laws being passed at the State level tell a different, much darker story that totally contradicts what he says.

In Arizona, for example, there is a law on the books that states that anyone who performs an abortion could be sentenced to anywhere from 2 to 5 years in prison. The new law in Arizona provides zero exceptions for rape and for incest.

In Oklahoma, a new law just came into effect banning abortion as early as 6 weeks and, like the law in Texas, empowers citizens to police each other's conduct and sue women simply trying to access an abortion and, again, zero exceptions for rape, zero exceptions for incest. If, God forbid, a woman is raped and doesn't want to have that child, the Republicans want to allow some of them to go to jail and some of them to be sued by their fellow citizens. Is that